Hoover Asserts Warren Critics Ignore and Misinterpret Facts

PDT 11/26/66

By Stephen M. Aug
Associated Press

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover rapped critics of the Warren Commission report on the assassination of President Kennedy yesterday, saying they ignored certain facts, misinterpreted others and expressed pure speculation as truth."

In a statement, Hoover said also:

• "Not one shred of evidence has been developed to link any other person in a conspiracy with (Lee Harvey) Oswald to assassinate President Kennedy."

• "While there is a difference in the information reported by the FBI and the information contained in the autopsy report concerning the wounds, there is no conflict."

• The FBI never altered the film of the assassination taken by Abraham Zapruder, a bystander.

Hoover made the comments in a statement requested by the Evening Star and made available to other news media.

Hoover devoted most of the statement to explaining differences between FBI reports of the Kennedy autopsy and the official report.

"The FBI reports record oral statements made by autopsy physicians while the examination was being conducted and before all the facts were known. The autopsy report records the final findings of the examination," Hoover said.

Hoover recalled that when the autopsy was conducted at the Bethesda Naval Hospital on the evening of Nov. 22, 1963 —the day Mr. Kennedy was shot—"two FBI agents were present. He said:

"They reported that Dr. James J. Humes, chief autopsy surgeon, located what appeared to be a bullet hole in the back below the shoulder and probed it to the end of the opening with a finger. The examining physicians were unable to explain why they could find no bullets or point of exit."

But Hoover said that, unknown to the agents, the physicians eventually were able to trace the path of the bullet through the body.